

1. A receptacle access control system comprising:

a receptacle adapted for cooperative engagement with a plug having plug connectors;

said receptacle having receptacle connectors adapted to engage with said plug connectors when said plug is engaged with said receptacle;

said receptacle connectors communicating through a means for switching, with a means for transmission of electrical energy;

said means for switching having a connected state wherein electrical energy is communicated to said receptacle connectors, said switching means having a disconnected state interrupting communication of said electrical energy to at least one of said receptacle connectors;

a controller communicating with said means for switching, said controller changing said means for switching to either of said connected state or said disconnected state;

means for broadcasting radio frequency energy;

a transponder, said transponder having a static state and having an energized state when placed sufficiently adjacent to said means for broadcasting radio frequency energy;

said transponder broadcasting an authorization radio signal only when in said energized state; and

said controller having a means to receive said authorization radio signal, said controller changing said means for switching to said connected state for the duration of time said

authorization radio signal is received, whereby communication of electrical energy is allowed from said receptacle through said plug only so long as said authorization radio signal is broadcast by said transponder located sufficiently adjacent to said controller for receipt by said controller.

2. The receptacle access control system of claim 1 additionally comprising:

said transponder programed with an authorization code, said authorization radio signal communicating said authorization code in said authorization radio signal; and

said controller changing said means for switching to said connected state only if said authorization code matches a predetermined authorization code.

3. The receptacle access control system of claim 2 additionally comprising:

said transponder continuously broadcasting said authorization code;

said controller changing said means for switching to said connected state only so long as said authorization code is received from said transponder.

4. The receptacle access control system of claim 1 additionally comprising:

means for timing in communication with said controller, said means for timing capable of signaling the end of a determined time period; and

said controller changing said means for switching to said connected state until said end of said determined time period is communicated from said means for timing.

5. The receptacle access control system of claim 2 additionally comprising:

means for timing in communication with said controller, said means for timing capable of signaling the end of a determined time period; and

said controller changing said means for switching to said connected state until said end of said determined time period is communicated from said means for timing.

6. The receptacle access control system of claim 1 additionally comprising:

means of removable attachment of said transponder to one of said plug or said receptacle.

7. The receptacle access control system of claim 2 additionally comprising:

means of removable attachment of said transponder to one of said plug or said receptacle.

8. The receptacle access control system of claim 2 additional comprising:

data processing means to receive said authorization code when broadcast by said transponder and compare said authorization code with a list of preauthorized codes to determine if said authorization code is a match to one of said list;

said data processing means communicating said match to said controller only for the duration of time said transponder is in said energized state and continues to broadcast said authorization code.

9. The receptacle access control system of claim 8 additionally comprising:

said data processing means programmed to communicate said match to said controller for a predetermined duration of time subsequent to the first broadcast of said authorization code determined to be a match, whether said transponder is in said static state or said energized state.

10. The receptacle access control system of claim 8 additional comprising:

means to remotely update said list of preauthorized codes.

11. The receptacle access control system of claim 9 additional comprising:

means to remotely update said list of preauthorized codes.

12. The receptacle access control system of claim 9 additional comprising:

means to remotely change the duration of said predetermined duration of time.

13. The receptacle access control system of claim 1 wherein access to an AC power supply is controlled.

14. The receptacle access control system of claim 1 wherein access to a computer network is controlled.

15. The receptacle access control system of claim 2 wherein access to an AC power supply is controlled.

16. The receptacle access control system of claim 2 wherein access to a computer network is controlled.

17. A method of controlling access to AC power or a communications network employing a receptacle having connectors adapted for cooperative engagement with a plug having corresponding plug connectors, a means for switching having a connected state wherein electrical energy is communicated to said receptacle connectors and having a disconnected state interrupting communication of said electrical energy to at least one of said receptacle connectors, a controller communicating with said means for switching, said controller changing said means for switching to either of said connected state or said disconnected state, means for broadcasting radio frequency energy, a transponder having a static state, and having an energized state only when placed sufficiently adjacent to said means for broadcasting radio frequency energy wherein transponder broadcasts an authorization radio signal comprising the steps of:

issuing said transponder to a user; and

having said user locate said transponder sufficiently close to said means for broadcasting radio frequency energy to change said transponder from said static state to said energized state, whereby said transponder broadcasts said authorization radio signal to said controller causing said controller to change said means for switching to said connected state, thereby allowing said AC power to communicate from said receptacle to said plug and any electrical device communicating with said plug.

18. The method of claim 17 including the additional steps of:

encoding said transponder with a specific authorization code broadcast in said authorization radio signal; and

encoding said controller with a pre-determined authorization code to thereby change said means for switching to said connected state only if said specific authorization code matches said predetermined authorization code.

19. The method of claim 18 including the additional steps of:

remotely updating said controller with a new predetermined authorization code prior to issuing said transponder to successive users.

20. The method of claim 17 including the additional steps of:

providing a means for timing to change said means for switching from said connected state said disconnected state after a determined time period.